

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph [0090] of the specification as follows:

[0090] Figure 11 is a side view showing that the linking element ~~(1)~~ 101 has a degree of freedom in terms of tilting about a transverse axis (124). This permits independence of the implant and makes it possible to position the implant by means of a hook (126) on the pedicle, and to independently seek the best orientation of the linking element ~~(1)~~ 101 without interference between these two constraints. The horseshoe shape and the mobility of the closure piece makes it possible to adapt the locking and to avoid unwanted rotation or displacement of the rod during tightening of the screw (113).